GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1518
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEES
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have not formed the District Planning Committees;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) the main functions of the District Planning Committees;

(d) the names of the States who have not framed rules for the functioning of District Planning Committees;

(e) whether the Government is considering any proposal to strengthen District Planning Committees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): The States of Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have so far not constituted District Planning Committees (DPCs) in conformity with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. The reasons for not forming the District Planning Committees as conveyed by these States are detailed at Annexe-I.

(c): Article 243 ZD of the Constitution provides that the District Planning Committee shall consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole. Article 243 ZD (2) (c) of the Constitution empowers the State Legislature to legislate regarding the functions relating to district planning which may be assigned to the District Planning Committees.

(d): Details are being ascertained from the States.

(e) & (f): The Planning Commission has issued comprehensive guidelines on 25.8.2006 for the preparation of district plans in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. These provide that the State Governments constitute a Technical Support Group in each district to assist the District Planning Committees in preparing vision documents and the draft plan proposals.

Securing assistance for Panchayats and the District Planning Committees for preparing and consolidating plans is one of the components of capacity building which can be funded in the 250 districts covered under the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme.

Annexe-I

Reasons for the States Not Constituting the DPCs

Sl.No.	State	Reasons for Not Forming the DPCs
1.	Gujarat	Legislation for constitution of DPC is to be enacted
2.	Haryana	DPC constitution in the State of Haryana is in final stages. The elections for DPCs have been completed in 15 districts. One more notification is to be issued by the Urban Development Department.
3.	Jharkhand	Since Panchayats have not been elected in Jharkhand, no DPCs have been constituted in the State.

4. Maharashtra A legislation for DPCs was passed, but has not been implemented so far. The State has decided to modify the rules for election of DPC members.After notification of these rules, DPCs are proposed to be constituted in the State.

5 Punjab Punjab has enacted legislation for the constitution of DPCs in October 05. The term of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads is coming to an end in January, 2008. The State Government has decided to constitute the DPCs, after the elections of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads.

6. Uttar Pradesh The state Government has intimated that the existing Uttar Pradesh District Planning Committees Act, 1999, needs to be amended. The DPCs are proposed to be constituted after the amendment in the Act.

7. Tripura In Tripura 70 % of the area is under the 6th Schedule. There is a single tier system in Autonomous District Council areas. DPCs therefore cannot be established through legal provisions in these districts. Chief Secretary, Tripura has suggested a certain composition of the DPC in the context of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). Clarification has been sought from the State Government whether the Chairperson-nominee of TTADC shall be a tribal representative elected to the TTADC from Dhalai, in conformity to the BRGF Guidelines.

8. Uttarakhand Uttarakhand, which inherited the UP Panchayati Raj Act, has not notified or constituted the DPCs.